

# Criteria and Instructions

## 2008 Western Bark Beetle Initiative Grant Program

### Introduction

Arizona and other western states are experiencing forest health challenges primarily due to drought, insects and disease and past fire suppression activities. Various bark beetles are infesting individual or stands of stressed and unhealthy trees. Although some of these losses are natural processes at work, landowners can take steps to minimize extensive mortality on their land and create a healthier stand of trees to make them more resistant to bark beetle attacks.

The Arizona State Forestry Division, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service (State and Private Forestry) is able to provide cost-share incentives for state and private lands to address forest health challenges as part of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

### Project Objectives

- **Protect** high value trees
- **Create and maintain** healthy stands of trees
- **Reduce bark beetle attacks** and tree mortality
- **Encourage landowners to implement** prevention and restoration projects
- **Restore and maintain** healthy ecosystems
- **Reduce fire risk** secondarily

### To achieve the above objectives the following activities are allowed under the grant:

- **Removal of infested trees:** Removing trees already infested with beetles can remove the local source of infestation to reduce further spread of the beetles.
- **Thinning of green trees:** Reducing stand density can improve tree health and reduce attacks from bark beetles.
- **Proper treatment of slash:** Green pine slash should be properly treated to reduce the potential for attraction to bark beetles. Techniques include hauling slash off site & away from host type, piling & burning (where safe & legal), chipping, mulching, etc. (**Slash must be green & suitable for bark beetle brood production. Not for treatment of dried, dead or other material not suitable for bark beetle brood production**).

### Grantee Responsibilities

- Meets the **50/50 match** requirement\*\*.
- Subdivisions or groups that receive a grant will need to **appoint** a homeowner representative to manage the grant.
- Agree to the terms and conditions of the grant.

- Obtain a Tax ID number for homeowners associations.
- Obtain contractors to perform the work.
- Submit reimbursement forms along with quarterly reports.
- Take a cooperative approach with your neighbors to encourage neighborhood forest health treatment practices.

- All grants will be scored based on the following:

Meets the grant criteria*		Yes = Eligible for scoring		No = Ineligible	
Meets the 50/50 match requirement**		Yes = Eligible for scoring		No = Ineligible	
1	Is this project achievable? (time, goals, budget, etc.)	Yes = 1		No = 0	
2	Is this project measurable? (# of acres treated, cost per acre, etc.)	Yes = 1		No = 0	
3	Is the applicant clearly showing collaborative elements and partners? (confidence level)	Yes = 1		No = 0	
4	Is the applicant clearly demonstrating project longevity? (Note: preference will be given to those projects clearly showing how it will remain effective over time)	Clearly Defined = 2	Mentioned not Defined = 1	None = 0	

## State Responsibilities

- **Will reimburse up to 50% of allowable project expenses** to grant recipients after work is completed.
- **Provide a program manager.** The program manager will be able to provide on the ground expertise and offer recommendations to properly implement forest health management projects. This person will be the main contact between the Grantee (and homeowner rep for subdivisions) and the State of Arizona Forest Health Program Manager.

## Procedure – Getting Involved

### \*Meeting the criteria in one or more of the following project category areas:

- 1) **Focus:** The focus of these dollars is to implement forest management activities on at-risk State or private lands to reduce adverse bark beetle impacts (see AZ Bark Beetle Risk Map).
- 2) **Treatment:** The primary treatment is the thinning of green host trees & related slash treatments of stands to prevent future bark beetle infestations. Ponderosa pine is the main host tree in the state.
- 3) **Dwarf Mistletoe:** Treatment of Dwarf Mistletoe infections on ponderosa pines to reduce their susceptibility to bark beetles.
- 4) **Secondary Fuel Reduction:** Thinning for bark beetle prevention and dwarf mistletoe reduction will also reduce fire risk.

### Examples of projects that DO NOT Qualify (not all inclusive):

- Removal of dead and down woody biomass.
- Removal of hazardous trees.
- Insecticidal spraying of ponderosa pine trees for bark beetle prevention.

### Examples of projects that qualify (not all inclusive):

- Homeowner-association sponsored thinning projects.
- Municipal, fire district, county coordination of proper slash disposal.
- Multi-jurisdictional treatment projects.

**\*\*A 50/50 match.** The allocated grant amount must be matched in full by the recipient using a **non-federal source**. The matching share can be soft match (i.e. labor, equipment, etc.) and/or hard match (which are actual dollars spent other than federal grant funds within the specified scope of work).

#### **Application Instructions:**

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- 1) All blocks are fill-in enabled and character locked. Applicants must fit all information into the allotted character space. **Applications that have been modified for any reason will be considered ineligible by the review committee. Attachments or addendums may be included if necessary & mutually agreed to & will be considered by the review committee.**
  - 2) Application guidelines by box number:
    - **Box 1 & 2-** Basic applicant and community/communities at risk information.
    - **Box 3 & 4-** The totals in these boxes add automatically when all data is entered into the fields and you tab to the next fill in enabled box. **Do not enter numbers into contributors' space.** If the contributors name contains a number spell out that number so that it will not add into the total column. Check that all numbers add up correctly and have transferred correctly to the Official Use only box on the top of page 1. Do not put the grant amount requested into box 3 as that will make box 3 and 4's match totals different and points will be deducted for these boxes not matching.
    - **Box 5-** Check as many boxes as apply to the project. Answer the specific questions under the three Project Category fields only if they are checked and apply to your project. If, for example, Planning is not a part of your project either leave the question below it blank or fill in N/A.
    - **Box 6-** The project area description should give a **brief** overview of the project to point out the problems and clearly show the need for work in this area.
    - **Box 7-** The scope of work should explain exactly how the grant dollars will be spent on this project. Unlike the overview, this will provide the specific details of the project. Remember to be concise. Say exactly what will be done with grant funds not what you expect the reviewer wants to hear.
      - *An example of a scope of work is:* The project will fund about 300 person days of forest health improvement work, operating expenses for treatments (i.e. fuel, oil, expendable parts, etc.). In conjunction with the community effort, will assist in public outreach, training, scheduling of work, assessment of treatments, processing of accomplishment data & payments, etc.
      - The project timeline should include such things as: begin/end dates, milestones, quarterly accomplishments, etc.
    - **Box 8-** Describe the contributions each partner will make to the project by stating the contributing partners name and what they will be contributing to the project such as manpower, equipment, matching funds, etc.
    - **Box 9-** Clearly show who, what, when, where, why and how this project will remain effective over time. Include all applicable time frames, milestones and measurables.
      - *Some examples of clearly defined planned maintenance would be* – delegating a portion of homeowners' dues to maintain thinned areas; project sites will be maintained by landowners per signed cost share agreements. Include specific timelines and measurables.
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### **Application Due Dates:**

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The Western Bark Beetle Initiative Grant Application for 2008 must be used and may be downloaded from the “Grant Information” section of the Arizona State Forestry Division website, at <http://www.azsf.az.gov/> along with the Criteria and Instructions. This application should be filled out and submitted to the Arizona State Forestry Division by **July 31, 2008.** Proposals should be mailed to: **Bob Celaya, Office of the State Forester, 1110 West Washington, Suite 100, Phoenix, Arizona 85007-2935.**